



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
(NRCS)

OH-ENG-234a  
03/00

COMPOSTING DESIGN WORKSHEET  
FOR WINDROWS

Landowner:		County:	
Designer:	Date:	Checked:	Date:

1. Calculate primary & secondary composting cycle times as a function of the design weight (see tables 1-3):

$$\text{Primary cycle time } (T_1) = 5.0 \times \sqrt{\frac{\text{Design Weight } (W_1, \text{ largest animal anticipated})}{\text{ADL}}} = \frac{\text{ADL}}{(10 \text{ day min})} \text{ Days}$$

$$\text{Secondary cycle time } (T_2) = 1/3 \times \frac{\text{Primary cycle time}}{\text{ADL}} = \frac{\text{ADL}}{(10 \text{ day min})} \text{ Days}$$

1. Calculate Primary, Secondary & Storage Volumes (or use Tables 1 through 3):

$$\text{Primary Volume} = 0.2 \times \frac{\text{lbs. Loss / Day (ADL)}}{\text{Primary Cycle Time } (T_1)} = \text{cu ft}$$

$$\text{Secondary Volume} = 0.2 \times \frac{\text{lbs. Loss / Day (ADL)}}{\text{Secondary Cycle Time } (T_2)} = \text{cu ft}$$

$$\text{Storage Volume} = 0.2 \times \frac{\text{lbs. Loss / Day (ADL)}}{30 \text{ days } (T_3)} = \text{cu ft}$$

Alternate: (use with large animals),  $W_1$  = weight of largest animal

$$\text{Primary Volume} = 0.2 \times W_1 (\text{lbs.}) \times \text{Integer } (\text{ADL} \times T_1 / W_1) = \text{cu ft}$$

$$\text{Secondary Volume} = 0.2 \times W_1 (\text{lbs.}) \times \text{Integer } (\text{ADL} \times T_2 / W_1) = \text{cu ft}$$

$$\text{Storage Volume} = 0.2 \times W_1 (\text{lbs.}) \times \text{Integer } (\text{ADL} \times T_3 / W_1) = \text{cu ft}$$

2. Indicate the windrow height and resulting windrow area used.

Assume a windrow height of 7 ft. and continue. Windrow Height = \_\_\_\_\_ ft  
Windrow Section area and base width assume 1 ft. top width and 1:1 side slopes

Windrow Height (ft)	Windrow Section Area (sq. ft.)	Windrow Base Width (ft)	Pad Width (ft)
5	30	11	52
6	42	13	56
7	56	15	60

3. Calculate the length of the Primary, Secondary and Storage windrows. \*\*The Design Windrow Length is longer of the primary windrow length or sum of the secondary and storage windrow lengths. Then calculate the pad length.

$$\text{Primary Windrow Length} = \left( \frac{\text{Primary Volume}}{\text{Primary Windrow Area}} \right) = \text{ft (nearest ft.)}$$

If the composting windrow length is less than twice the windrow height, reduce the height and go back to step 2. This indicates the composting configuration will be a compost pile versus a windrow.

$$\text{Secondary Windrow Length} = \left( \frac{\text{Secondary Volume}}{\text{Primary Windrow Area}} \right) = \text{ft (nearest ft.)}$$

$$\text{Storage Windrow Length} = \left( \frac{\text{Storage Volume}}{\text{Primary Windrow Area}} \right) = \text{ft (nearest ft.)}$$

$$\text{Pad Length} = \text{**Design Windrow Length} + 10 \text{ ft.} = \text{ft (nearest ft.)}$$

4. Calculate Composting Pad Area

Pad width = 10 ft + primary windrow base + 10 ft. + secondary windrow base + 10 ft (See Table in step 2)

$$\text{Pad width} = 10 \text{ ft} + \text{primary windrow base} + 10 \text{ ft.} + \text{secondary windrow base} + 10 \text{ ft} = \text{ft}$$

$$\text{Compost Pad Area} = \frac{\text{Pad Length}}{\text{Pad Length}} \times \frac{\text{Pad Width}}{\text{Pad Width}} = \text{sq. ft.}$$

5. Calculate annual sawdust requirements. (This assumes no reintroduction of finished compost to the primary windrow, however it is recommended that up to 50% of fresh sawdust requirements be met with finished compost.)

$$\text{Cubic Yards Sawdust} = \frac{\text{lb loss / yr.}}{\text{lb loss / yr.}} \times 0.0069 = \text{cu. yd. / yr.}$$